

## AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

### Draft Minutes

June 7, 2016

Members Present: Vicky Wetherall, Brian Kielbania, Stacey Stearns, Ed Hall, Jennifer Kaufman (staff)

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:05 (new starting time)
2. Minutes of April 5<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup> were reviewed. Vicky moved to approve them, Stacey seconded.
3. New Business: Officers were elected.  
Nancy nominated Stacey Stearns for Chair, Ed Hall seconded. Vote was unanimous.  
Stacey nominated Nancy for secretary. Vicky seconded. The vote was unanimous.
4. Old Business:

Commonfields Plan 2016 discussion from previous meeting was reviewed. Ed Hall confirmed that Round Up was used on the piece of property discussed by Tom Wells. He notified the Montessori School on Bassett's Bridge Road that it was being done. But, the spraying was done on a Sunday so no measures had to be taken at the school. Currently there is no plan of conservation by the NRCS.

Meeting with Windham Chamber of Commerce, Wed. June 8<sup>th</sup>  
Jennifer shared that she and Stacey will meet with this group who wants to know what Mansfield Ag Committee does. Vicky commented that it is connected to Economic Development and that this group should get connected to Advocate.

Celebrate Mansfield- It was agreed that a display needs to be worked on that is windproof. Volunteers- Nancy and Vicky volunteered. Other volunteers will be solidified at July meeting.

Walktober Event- Brian confirmed that it will be on October 15<sup>th</sup>, raindate the 22<sup>nd</sup>. It will be hosted by Brian Kielbania and Jason Stearns at Twin Ponds Farm. The listing at Last Green Valley is "Farmland Forever". There will be hayrides, the Red barn Creamery and Farm Store will be open as well as a pumpkin field. Details will be worked out.

Farm to Table event- There was a meeting of this subcommittee in May with 2 members of the EDC. Steve Smith of Dog Lane Café will host on October event. It will hopefully be coordinated with Jiff Martin's school event and be a week long event in both venues. Steve and Jiff need to coordinate with the farmers and need to know what they can provide in bulk by August 15<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a display at the entryway of Dog Lane (that we provide). A July and August meeting of this subcommittee is needed to solidify details.

Collaboration with EDC- They will take field trips to farms. Farms they can meet with now- Ledgecrest, Thompson's, Foxfire Stables, Bailey's Maple Sugar. They want to ask questions on a survey of how the town can help these farms. They want us to review their questions.

Cranberry Hill "Soil Powered Farming" Event- June 29<sup>th</sup> was confirmed. Jennifer made the brochure and distributed copies for members to hand out at various places in town.

Farm to School Initiative- Jiff martin would like a letter from the Ag Comm to the new Superintendent of Schools saying that this initiative is a good idea. The new food service director may need some time to change the culture of the service. Stacey agreed to create a draft letter for the July meeting.

5. Communication- New brochure handed out for committee members to distribute around town- Thompson's, Mansfield Supply, Community Center, Library, Dog Lane during event week.
6. Future Agendas- Zoning- There are currently public hearings scheduled for multi-family units. The Zoning Committee will let us know when our comments are needed.
7. No public comment.
8. Adjourned at 8:05